from the branch **426** and into the introducer cannula **452** and passageway **65**. The enlarged proximal portion **431** on the catheter **430** seats in the introducer cannula **452** whereupon the tubular component **420** is disconnected from the cannula. The introducer cannula **452** is pulled out of the venipuncture, pulling a portion of the catheter **430** with it. The introducer cannula **452** is then taped to the skin near the venipuncture whereupon an intravenous tube or I.V. unit is attached as described above.

One advantage to the tubular component **420** of FIG. **11** is that the technician can hold, with one hand, both the introducer cannula **452** and the tubular component **420**. The other hand is free to operate the syringe **468**.

Other aspects, objects and advantages of this invention can be obtained from a study of the drawings, the disclosure and the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A catheter placement device for propelling an elongate flexible and elastic catheter into a body passageway;

an elongate tubular means having a hollow internal cavity throughout the length thereof, said tubular means being substantially straight and having a longitudinal axis throughout the length thereof, an enlarged proximal portion on said flexible and elastic catheter; said flexible and elastic catheter being disposed completely within said tubular means and having a longitudinal axis lying along a longitudinal axis of said tubular means; said tubular means having an internal diameter slightly greater than the external diameter of the elastic catheter and of the enlarged proximal portion of said elastic catheter to support the catheter along its length;

an introducer cannula having one end portion insertable into said body passageway;

means for connecting a distal end of said tubular means with said introducer cannula; and

dispensing means removably connected to a proximal end of said tubular means for selectively expelling fluid into said tubular means for propelling said flexible and elastic catheter along the axis of said tubular means and out of the distal end of said tubular means and partially through said introducer cannula and partially into said body passageway.

2. A catheter placement device as claimed in claim **1** wherein said elongate tubular means is a sleeve made of a transparent inert plastic material.

3. A catheter placement device as claimed in claim **2** wherein said means for connecting said tubular means with said introducer cannula is a male luer adapter sealed on the distal end of said sleeve, and wherein a female luer adapter is sealed on the proximal end of said introducer cannula.

4. A catheter placement device as claimed in claim **1** wherein said dispensing means is a syringe.

5. A catheter placement device as claimed in claim **1** wherein said tubular means is divided into two parallel cavities communicating with each other at the proximal end thereof, one of said cavities containing said flexible catheter, a distal end of said catheter aligning with said means for connecting said tubular means to said introducer cannula, the other of said cavities being connected to said dispensing means whereby fluid expelled by said dispensing means propels said catheter into said body passageway through said introducer cannula.

6. A catheter placement device as claimed in claim **1** wherein said flexible catheter has a funnel-shaped proximal end portion and wherein an eyelet is seated in said funnel-shaped portion to prevent collapse of said funnel-shaped portion.

7. A catheter introducer, comprising:

a stiff tube having a longitudinal axis, a flexible catheter having a longitudinal axis disposed lengthwise along the axis of said tube; said stiff tube having an internal diameter slightly larger than the external diameter of said catheter so as to provide lateral support for said catheter;

means connecting the distal end of said tube to a body passageway; and

means for injecting liquid into the proximal end of said tube for propelling said flexible catheter from said tube and into said body passageway.

8. The catheter introducer of claim 7 wherein said catheter has an enlarged segment maintained by an eyelet seated in said proximal portion of the catheter, said internal diameter of said tube being slightly larger than the external diameter of said enlarged segment.

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